In the claims

Please amend claim 1 and cancel claims 2 , 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 as follows:

1. (currently amended) An endoscope objective lens having a three-group, three-lens element construction, comprising, in order from the object side:

a first lens element of negative refractive power and either a meniscus or a plano-concave shape with its concave surface on the image side;

a stop;

a second lens element of positive refractive power and a plano-convex shape with its convex surface on the image side;

a third lens element of positive refractive power and a plano-convex shape with its convex surface on the object side;

wherein

the image-side surface of the third lens element makes contact with an end surface of an optical fiber bundle, a surface of an image detector, or a cover glass for an image detector;

the stop is positioned on or in contact with the object-side surface of the second lens element; and

the following conditions are satisfied

$2.00 < | f1 / f | < 3.00$

$2.50 < | f1 / D2 | < 7.50$

$| D3 / R4 | < 1.00$

where,

f1 is the focal length of the first lens element,

f is the focal length of the endoscope objective lens,

D2 is the on-axis spacing between the first lens element and the second lens element,

D3 is the center thickness of the second lens element, and

R4 is the radius of curvature of the image-side surface of the second lens element.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The endoscope objective lens according to claim 1, wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$nd1 > 1.80$$

where

nd1 is the refractive index at the d-line of the first lens element.

4. (canceled)

5. (original) The endoscope objective lens according to claim 1, wherein the first lens element is formed by a molding process.

6. (canceled)

7. (original) The endoscope objective lens according to claim 3, wherein the first lens element is formed by a molding process.

8. (canceled)

9. (original) The endoscope objective lens according to claim 1, wherein the second and third lens elements are formed by a grinding process.

10. (canceled)

11. (original) The endoscope objective lens according to claim 3, wherein the second and third lens elements are formed by a grinding process.

12. (canceled)

13. (original) The endoscope objective lens according to claim 5, wherein the second and third

lens elements are formed by a grinding process.

14. (canceled)

15. (original) The endoscope objective lens according to claim 7, wherein the second and third lens elements are formed by a grinding process.

16. (canceled)